

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have canceled claims 1, 2 and 6 - 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, leaving claims 11 - 16 pending in the application.

Applicants, through their undersigned attorney, thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on May 20, 2004. During the interview, the undersigned proposed canceling claims 1, 2 and 6 - 10. The undersigned and the Examiner discussed the similarity between claims 11 - 16 and claim 29 of United States Patent No. 6,664,642. The undersigned noted that a terminal disclaimer was filed April 22, 2004, disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the subject application would extend beyond expiration of the full statutory term of United States Patent No. 6,664,642. The undersigned also explained the differences between the present invention and the documents submitted with the information disclosure statement filed May 13, 2004. The undersigned also noted that United States Patent No. 6,087,733 to Maxim et al has a filing date (June 12, 1998) subsequent to the effective United States filing date (March 31, 1998) of the subject application and, therefore, is not prior art to the presently claimed invention. The Examiner requested that applicants file the amendment canceling claims 1, 2 and 6 - 10 as soon as possible.

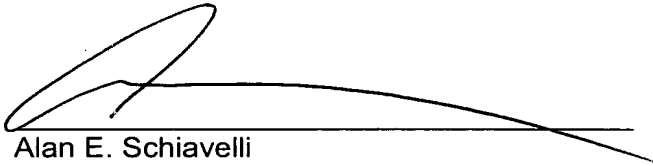
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the amendments and remarks submitted April 22, 2004, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.36127CC3),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Schiavelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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